



**The Clarendon  
Churches**

The Church of England East of Salisbury

## **Worship at Home – 18<sup>th</sup> October 2020 St. Luke the Evangelist**

The Lord be with you  
**And also with you**

### *The Collect*

Almighty God, you called Luke the physician, whose praise is in the gospel, to be an evangelist and physician of the soul: by the grace of the Spirit and through the wholesome medicine of the gospel, give your Church the same love and power to heal; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

### *Bible reading: Luke 10.1-9*

The Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, “Peace to this house!” And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the labourer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, “The kingdom of God has come near to you.”’

### *Sermon – Revd. Beth*

‘Go on your way’, Jesus said. ‘See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals’. Those words have particularly resonated with me this week. Go on your way – yes, I’m about to do just that. I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves – I hope not, but I do need to be prepared for challenging conversations once in a while. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals. Well, I have already failed, seeing how many boxes are piling up ahead of my move.

I do sense how liberating it is, though, to ‘travel light’, both physically and spiritually. Over the last few weeks I have taken much pleasure in giving away a lot of things, to reduce my furniture and my boxes. I have also seen the diary lighten, and time emerge for those important parts of ministry. This eases the enormous sense of burden that can build up in ministry and therefore lightens the spirit. My challenge is how to carry that lightness into my next post, so that I and those I encourage and lead, can become effective labourers in the harvest of the Kingdom.

I smiled when I read the phrase ‘The labourer deserves to be paid’, because every Diocese in our country is currently grappling with financial challenges as a result of Covid-19. Sadly, it seems, posts will be cut. It’s a reminder to us all that as members of the Church our contribution is financial as well as prayerful and practical. We contribute to the Church’s ministry even when we are unable to share in public worship.

When Jesus sent out the 12 and then another 70 they weren’t to carry a house full of stuff. They were to rely on the hospitality of those amongst whom they ministered. That required a huge level of trust in God that they wouldn’t go hungry. That’s not to say they were welcomed wherever they went – far from it. They needed to discern where the message of Jesus was to be listened to and received and let his peace fall in that place.

Over my 25 years of ordained ministry I can think of occasions where my ministry has not been welcomed. It’s tough. But Jesus did warn his disciples to face opposition and even persecution. But the message that they and we carry is far bigger, far more important. You could say it’s a matter of life and death in Kingdom terms. Therefore, it’s urgent. We can’t be complacent.

Amongst those who picked up the baton of proclamation after Jesus’ resurrection was Luke, who is remembered in the Church calendar today. Luke was a doctor, but soon started dispensing the medicine of the Gospel as well. He travelled widely, trusting in God’s leading and protection, seeking those places he would be welcomed and nourished. Of course, we also know Luke as a writer, both of the third Gospel in the New Testament, and its sequel, The Acts of the Apostles. Luke’s ministry was one of medicine, spoken word and the pen.

How would you characterise your ministry as a Christian? Are you a doer, a speaker or a writer, or a mixture of those? So often, when we think about offering our gifts to God, we distinguish between those who do, and those who speak. Are we missing a trick with the written word? The work of the Bible Society would suggest that the written word is as important as ever, even though audio books are part of the digital age. How might you use the written word to encourage others in faith? I would like to think that the old-fashioned form of letter writing is not dead and buried. Is there somebody who is housebound that you could write to once a week, once a month, perhaps including a verse or two of Scripture?

Whether you are a doer, a speaker or a writer for the Gospel, it is important that what you do or say or write enables the recipient to connect with God in Jesus. When I move I need to make sure that the vast number of boxes doesn’t obscure that calling. And for each of us, we need to find ways to move the obstacles and burdens which hamper our discipleship, so that we discover a lightness in our calling. May our doing, our speaking and our writing be effective for Christ, that they convey to others the message: ‘The Kingdom of God has come near to you’. Amen.

### *Prayers – Revd. Simon*

Let us pray for the church and the world and let us thank God for his Goodness.

We thank you Lord for your church throughout the world, praying especially where it brings your peace in difficult situations and in people's lives weighed down with the burdens of life. We give thanks for our churches here in the Clarendon Team, and especially giving thanks for Beth's ministry with us, her gifts, and her skills in bringing the kingdom of God near to us. We pray for her in the weeks ahead as she is called to pastures new. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the ministry of each one of us as we are sent out as labourers into the harvest. Especially praying for those who hear your call and respond to formal ministries within the church. We pray for those who are currently discerning their calling, that they may hear clearly and respond boldly; for all those in our diocese who are engaged with vocations, ordinations, and training; Lord strengthen your church by your Spirit. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our world, a world that longs for peace, stability and wholeness. We pray for world leaders, for those in government in this country, for our local Wiltshire Council and those on our parish councils. Give wisdom and clarity in these difficult times. We continue to pray for those severely affected by the Covid virus: for healthcare workers, for those recently unemployed and those facing the future with fear; bring your peace, strength and Godly generosity. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our schools, giving thanks for our headteachers, all the staff and our governors. Give them strength as they continue in these strange times, bring them refreshment during the half term holiday, and keep them delighting in the joy of their work. We pray for any children that are finding this time especially difficult, praying that our schools may continue to be places of friendship, joy and learning. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are sick and suffering in mind, body, or spirit. Especially remembering those on our church prayer lists, and those known to each one of us. A moment for you to name someone who is on your heart at the moment. ... Bring them wholeness and healing that they may soon pass this time of uncertainty in their lives. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who have recently died, their families and friends. Comfort them with a knowledge of your love and bring them peace. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

And we pray for ourselves: Lord you know our needs and our desires, and you know all that is good for us. By the grace of your spirit, meet us in the centre of our need today, that we may be the people you would have us be, so we too may show your love in the world. Use us to bring your kingdom's values to those around us. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

And we join all our prayers together with the words Jesus himself taught us as we pray  
**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

### *The Blessing*

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

### *Hymn – St. Patrick's Breastplate*

I bind unto myself today the strong Name of the Trinity,  
by invocation of the same,  
the Three in One and One in Three.  
I bind this day to me for ever.  
By power of faith, Christ's incarnation;  
His baptism in the Jordan river;  
His death on Cross for my salvation;  
His bursting from the spiced tomb;  
His riding up the heavenly way;  
His coming at the day of doom;  
I bind unto myself today.

Christ be with me, Christ within me,  
Christ behind me, Christ before me,  
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,  
Christ to comfort and restore me.  
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,  
Christ in hearts of all that love me,  
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

I bind unto myself the Name,  
The strong Name of the Trinity;  
By invocation of the same.  
The Three in One, and One in Three,  
Of Whom all nature hath creation,  
Eternal Father, Spirit, Word:  
Praise to the Lord of my salvation,  
Salvation is of Christ the Lord.